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F A C S I M I L E T R A N S M I T T A L S H E E T

TO Commissioner of Patents	FROM: R. Siegesmund
COMPANY: USPTO	DATE: 12/22/2005
FAX NUMBER: 571-273-8300	NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 4
PHONE NUMBER:	RE: REPLY BRIEF
NOTES/COMMENTS:	

REPLY BRIEF in response to EXAMINER'S ANSWER mailed 10/31/05
APPLICATION NO. 09/657,116

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/657,116
Applicant: Martinez
Filing Date: 9/07/2000
Group Art Unit: 2174
Title: Spotlight Cursor

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO EXAMINER'S ANSWER

Dear Sir:

In response to the examiner's answer mailed October 31, 2005, the Applicant submits the following reply.

Attorney Docket No. AUIS920000405US1
Serial No. 09/657,116

REPLY TO EXAMINER'S ANSWER

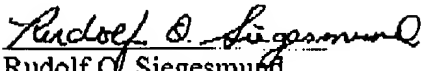
The appellant's disclosure and the '872 patent both disclose a graphical user interface for interacting with objects on a display screen. In general, both interfaces comprise a selection object on the screen that is responsive to a user-activated controller. In both interfaces, the selection object also has a circular geometry.

As already noted in the appeal brief, though, there are substantial differences between the two interfaces. Significantly, the selection object of the '872 patent (the "selection circle") has a fixed center during operation. The '872 patent indicates that the center may be fixed at different positions on the screen at various times, but does not indicate explicitly *how* the center may be positioned. From the remainder of the description, though, it is clear that the user-activated controller is one-dimensional (i.e. only controls one parameter) and that the center of the selection circle is not responsive to the user-activated controller during a selection operation. Rather, the radius of the selection circle is the only attribute of the selection circle that is responsive to the one-dimensional user-activated controller. In contrast, the appellant's selection object (the "spotlight cursor") has a center that is responsive to a two-dimensional user-activated controller and a radius that is fixed during operation.

As observed in the '872 patent, the selection circle is advantageous for selecting an object in a two-dimensional display with a one-dimensional controller. The spotlight cursor, in contrast, is advantageous for providing secondary content about objects in a two-dimensional display using a single selection object that can move in two dimensions.


Attorney Docket No. AUS920000405US1
Serial No. 09/657,116

Respectfully submitted,


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